



# DIABETES IN MARION COUNTY

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

◆ Diabetes Control Program    ◆ Chronic Disease Epidemiology Branch  
Diabetes Initiative of South Carolina

Diabetes mellitus, a chronic disease characterized by elevated blood sugar levels, is a significant contributor to morbidity and mortality in South Carolina and throughout the United States. Diabetes can cause debilitating and costly complications such as blindness, renal failure, lower extremity amputations, and cardiovascular disease. Much of the health and economic burden of diabetes can be averted through known prevention measures.

In 1998, 5.7 percent of South Carolina adults, equivalent to approximately 163,000 adults, reported having been diagnosed with diabetes. Diabetes was the sixth leading cause of death in South Carolina claiming 1,029 lives in 1997 and contributing to another 3,014 deaths. This report presents the burden of diabetes in Marion county.

## Behavioral Risk Factors

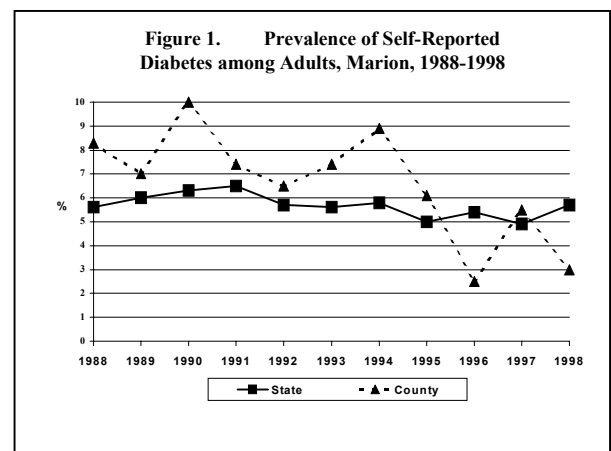
Table 1 displays the prevalence of major behavioral risk factors for diabetes and its complications in Marion county and SC in 1998.

Table 1. Prevalence (%) of  
Behavioral Risk Factors for Diabetes

	Marion County	SC
Overweight	57.1	52.3
Current Smokers	24.0	24.7
Physical Inactivity	63.7	61.6
Consuming fruits and vegetables less than 5-A-Day	76.0	78.2
Hypertension (1997)	24.7	26.7
High Cholesterol (1997)	23.1	24.4

## Prevalence

In 1998 there were approximately 760 adults (3%) aged 18 and older living in Marion county who have been told by a doctor some time in their life that they have diabetes (Figure 1).



## Morbidity and Complications

In 1997, there were 193 hospital discharges with diabetes as the primary diagnosis among Marion county residents. During the same year, there was an additional 1213 hospital discharges with diabetes-related condition. African-Americans had more hospitalizations for diabetes than whites: 139 (72%) for diabetes as the primary diagnosis, and 613 (50.5%) hospitalizations for diabetes as a related condition.

In 1997, hospital charges for hospitalizations of Marion county residents having diabetes as primary diagnosis were up to \$1.7 million and \$16.8 million for diabetes as a related condition. The total length of hospital stay for diabetes as the primary diagnosis was 1148 days.

Marion county patients with diabetes who had diabetes-related complications in 1997 included:

- 147 (10.6%) with renal manifestations;
- 28 (2.0%) with lower extremity amputations related to diabetes;
- 31 (2.2%) with diabetic ketoacidosis;
- 53 (3.8%) with renal failure;
- 63 (4.5%) with dialysis.

Adults with diabetes are at increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Out of 1377 hospitalizations for patients with diabetes, 1116 (81%) had cardiovascular diseases, and 168 (12%) had stroke.

In 1997, there were 147 emergency room (ER) visits for diabetes as the primary diagnosis, among which 118 (80%) were for African-American patients. In addition, there were 344 ER visits for diabetes as a related condition. Total ER charges for diabetes as the primary diagnosis was \$74,713.

## Mortality

In 1997, diabetes was listed as the underlying cause of death for 32 residents of Marion county. This is an age-standardized mortality rate of 73.2 per 100,000 population, higher than the state average of 39.2 per 100,000 population (Figure 2). Diabetes was listed as a contributing cause in 48 deaths in Marion county; a standardized mortality rate of 107.4 per 100,000 population.

A total of 286 potential years of life were lost in 1997 because people died prematurely from diabetes. Diabetes mortality in Marion county follows the national pattern of diabetic mortality that African-Americans has higher mortality rates than whites. African-American men had the highest standardized mortality (157.9 per 100,000 population) among all race-sex groups.

## Marion County Resources

Buquilla Ervin  
Pee Dee Minority Health Disease Prevention and Health Education  
231 South Warley Street  
Florence, SC 29501  
(843) 629-7753

Mary Ellen Rogers, MS, RD, CDE  
Program Coordinator  
Columbia Grand Strand Regional Medical Center  
809 82<sup>nd</sup> Parkway  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572  
(843) 692-1115 or (843) 248-6336

Edward Schlaefer  
Palmetto Community Health Network  
900 C Main Street  
PO Box 56 Conway, SC 29528  
(843) 248-5296

**Figure 2. Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate of Diabetes, Marion, 1992-1997**

